

Message Text

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USMISSION BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2829

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XG

SUBJECT: SOVIET COMMENT ON CSCE

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

REF: MOSCOW 2708

1. SUMMARY. IN THE SECOND OF A TWO PART ARTICLE ON CSCE (REFTEL REPORTS PART ONE), IZVESTIYA EDITOR TOLKUNOV LOOKS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT MACHINERY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE "THIRD STAGE AT THE SUMMIT LEVEL," AND CLAIMS THAT THE WEST, LARGELY FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, NEEDS COOPERATION MORE THAN THE
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EAST. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW ARGUES THAT PARTICIPANTS IN CSCE

WOULD RECOGNIZE THE CONFERENCE'S HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND CEASE ALL EFFORTS TO GAIN FLEETING, UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES. IN A SPEECH ON FEBRUARY 28, POLITBURO MEMBER KIRILENKI REITERATED STANDARD SOVIET VIEWS ON CSCE. LEAVING ASIDE SOME OF THE RHETORIC, THESE ITEMS IMPLY A GROWING SOVIET INTEREST IN IRONING OUT THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES AND MOVING TOWARD A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. END SUMMARY

2. THE SECOND PART OF TOLKUNOV'S ARTICLE BEGINS BY DISCUSSING THE NECESSITY FOR ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO CARRY ON POLITICAL COOPERATION AFTER THE SECOND AND THIRD STAGES OF THE CSCE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. TOLKUNOV THEN CLAIMS THAT THE WEST NEEDS AN ALL-EUROPEAN ACCORD AT LEAST AS MUCH AS THE EAST, BECAUSE OF ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE CHANGE IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CAPITALIST WORLD AND THE "THIRD WORLD," TOGETHER WITH THEIR CURRENT INTERNAL ECONOMIC CRISES IMPEL THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO SEEK COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIALIST STATES. BUSINESSMEN, WHO "KNOW HOW TO COUNT MONEY," SEE THIS NECESSITY, SAYS TOLKUNOV, AND REALIZE THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THE REMAINING OBSTACLES TO CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THERE IS, IN ANY CASE, NO ALTERNATIVE TO COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR AGE.

3. CHANGING TONE, TOLKUNOV THEN SAYS THAT THE SUCCESSES TO DATE HAVE BEEN REACHED THROUGH COMPROMISE, BUT THAT EVERY EASTERN COMPROMISE HAS BROUGHT FORTH STIFFER WESTERN PRESSURE. POLITICAL DETENTE HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A CONTINUING ARMS RACE. CERTAIN "CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES" HAVE BEEN AGREED, SAYS TOLKUNOV, BUT THE WESTERN DEMAND FOR MORE ADVANCE NOTICE OF TROOP MOVEMENTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXERT CONTROL OVER THE EASTERN FORCES. HE THEN DENOUNCES PEKING FOR ENCOURAGING EUROPEAN WORRIES ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS. TOLKUNOV CONCLUDES IN A HOPEFUL TONE THAT THE SKEPTICS WILL BE ANSWERED BY THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS "AT THE SUMMIT LEVEL."

4. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW, WRITTEN BY AMERICAN SECTION EDITOR RATINANI, ENDORSES THE SWEDISH PROPOSAL FOR A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE DETAILS FOR CONCLUDING THE THIRD STAGE AT HELSINKI. RATINANI STRESSES THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENTS AND SPECIFICALLY DENOUNCES A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE FOR ATTEMPTING TO RETURN TO QUESTIONS ALREADY DECIDED AND DEPLORES, IN GENERAL, ALL EFFORTS TO GAIN TEMPORARY ADVANTAGES.
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5. POLITBURO MEMBER KIRILENKI, SPEAKING ON FEBRUARY 28 (PRAVDA MARCH 1) TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON CSCE BUT ADDED NOTHING NEW TO STANDARD SOVIET POSITIONS.

6. COMMENT: THESE ITEMS, ESPECIALLY THE LONG AND AUTHORITATIVE TOLKUNOV PIECES, SEEM TO SHOW GROWING SOVIET INTEREST IN SEEING THE CSCE CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DESPITE THE

EXAGGERATED RHETORIC ABOUT THE WEST'S ECONOMIC "NEED" FOR A
SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, AND MOSCOW'S IRRITATION ABOUT CONTINUING
WESTERN "PRESSURE" FOR COMPROMISES, THE TONE IS GENERALLY
CONSISTENT ON THE LIKELIHOOD AND DESIRABILITY OF A BIG HELSINKI
SUMMIT TO SANCTION THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE.
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